

PFLP-DFLP Memo to UN

In response to the complaint presented by the Israeli government to the Security Council last night, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Joint Command sends the following message to the Secretary-General of the UN and distributes it to the international mass media:

In response to the deteriorating health situation of many hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, as a result of fascist, inhuman treatment, and the gravely worsening health of a huge number of these Palestinians, and after Israel has broken the December 1983 agreement to exchange prisoners, both DFLP and PFLP decided to exercise their humanitarian political mission aimed at the release of these detainees. For this, a group of DFLP fighters carried out, on April 2nd, 1984, the Day of the Land operation in Jerusalem, with the purpose of taking hostages from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Tourism, in order to release a number of Palestinian prisoners from

Israeli jails. The Israeli authorities rejected the demands, and our militants were attacked on the orders of the Israeli Defense Minister. The attack caused the death and injury of many persons.

With the same purpose, a group of PFLP commandos carried out, on April 12, an operation against a bus transporting Israeli soldiers: the bus was led towards the Egyptian border in order to negotiate the question away from Israeli treachery. The group released all the women who were in the bus, including a pregnant one. Despite this, the Israeli cabinet ordered an attack on the bus and its passengers. This decision was taken by the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, and the Defense Minister, Moshe Arens, in the presence of the Chief of Staff, Moshe Levi. As a result, the Israeli troops, led by Moshe Levi himself, opened fire on the bus and its passengers at a point near the Palestinian-Egyptian border.

Presenting these facts, we put responsibility for what happened on the Israeli cabinet which had given orders to open fire on the bus and its Israeli and Arab passengers.

We emphasize that the UN Charter offered our people, as well as all peoples, the full right to resist the forces of occupation by all available means. What is happening inside the occupied territories - setting up new settlements, confiscation of Arab lands, destruction of buildings and expulsion of the inhabitants from their homes - constitutes acts of daily aggression and terror, committed by Israel against our people. We see that it is the right and duty of our people to resist what the Israeli government is practicing, to resist by all possible means till we achieve recognition of our right to self-determination and complete independence on our soil.

We would like to attract the attention of the UN and international public opinion to the preparatory steps of the Israeli government aimed at committing an aggression against Palestinian and Arab patriotic forces. The complaint presented by Israel to the Security Council last night is one of these steps, realized with the purpose of launching an aggressive attack against Syria, PLO and the Arab liberation movement.

DFLP-PFLP

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who witnessed the operation were prevented from sending news out. Another news agency correspondent mentioned the Israeli force had set up a large blockade around the bus and hundreds of armed soldiers were seen in the area.

Attempting to limit the effects of the operation, the enemy put all possible constraints on the press. However, the contradictory reports coming out point to the lies and false propaganda of the enemy. Just as an example, the enemy's radio gave contradictory reports on the number of passengers in the bus. They first talked about 35 passengers, then 30. Another time, they mentioned that there were 41 passengers and then contradicted themselves by talking about 45 passengers.

The enemy's losses:

The enemy's radio quoted a military spokesman as saying that the losses, according to official statements, were 8 killed and 5 injured. Yet our sources indicate that the losses were much higher than that. In fact some press correspondents mentioned that there were many helicopters and ambulances transporting the injured and killed. Later, eyewitness reports from people coming from the occupied territories to Amman,

Jordan, pointed out that the Zionist casualties were very high. They added that only two passengers came out of the bus unhurt. In addition, comes the high numbers of injured and killed in the enemy's forces.

Commandos killed after capture:

As to the four members of the group, the enemy's radio and news agencies confirmed that two were killed during the attack and two were taken prisoners. This fact was also revealed by the pictures that were published showing two chained commandos. Also eyewitness reports stated that the Zionists killed the two commandos in revenge for the operation and to make sure that they could not be freed through a future operation. This is clearly put in Moshe Arens' threatening explanation «any 'terrorist' who thinks of carrying out similar operations, should know that he will be killed». This statement also indicates that the enemy killed the two commandos in a desperate attempt to put an end to such operations.

Indeed, this is a clear violation of the international laws stated in the Geneva Convention, regarding political prisoners. It is an important issue that should be followed closely by the